

REMARKS

This amendment and RCE responds to a final office action dated July 28, 2003. In the final office action the Examiner rejected claims 10-12, 14, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by King et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0101664). Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over King et al. Claims 1-9, 13, and 17-20 are rejected under §103 as unpatentable over King et al. or Perkins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,288,840) in view of Grinberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,688,897) and Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,013,339). No claims are allowed.

Attorney-of-record David Ripma wishes to thank Examiner Armel C. Lavarias for his courtesy in granting a telephone interview with applicant's representative Ingrid McTaggart, Reg. No. 37,180, on November 3, 2003. The Examiner prepared and filed an Interview Summary (PTOL-413) in the application, dated November 7, 2003, which applicant incorporates by reference herein and affirms in its entirety as an accurate summary of the substance of the interview. Applicant's representative argued during the interview that the claims of the application were allowable over the cited art, namely, King et al., Perkins et al., Grinberg et al. and Yamada et al. No agreement was reached, however, and the Examiner suggested that changes to the claims which applicant believes are set forth herein might overcome the cited art of record.

By this response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 17, 20 and 21, which includes each of the independent claims. As amended, the claims now clearly recite limitations not taught or suggested by the cited prior art. Support for the claim amendments is found in applicant's

specification as originally filed. In particular, applicant's figure 3 as originally filed shows wire grid 28 having first and second parallel surfaces, wherein the first surface of the wire grid is secured to first beam splitter section 14 and wherein the second surface of the wire grid is secured to second beam splitter section 16 in an edge region of the wire grid. The uppermost or raised surface of the second surface of wire grid 28 is positioned opposite an air gap 40 from second beam splitter section 16 such that the air gap 40 is positioned between the wire grid 28 and the second section 16 of the beam splitter.

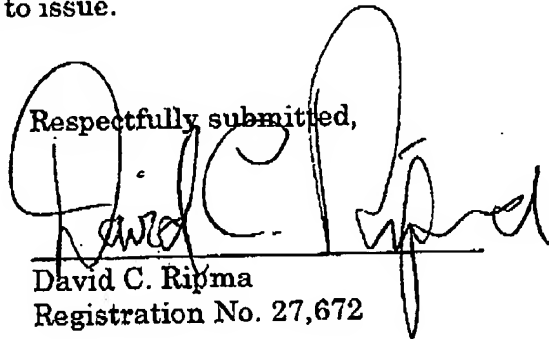
The art cited and applied in the final office action entirely fails to teach the structure now recited in amended independent claims 1, 10, 17, and 21. As pointed out by the Examiner in the final office action, King et al. and Perkins et al. lack a wire grid polarizer secured to an internal surface of the splitter and spaced from another internal surface so as to define a gap between the grid and the second internal surface. In Grinberg et al. there is a space where liquid crystal is positioned, but it is clearly not an air gap. And as was pointed out in applicant's remarks submitted with the response dated May 30, 2003, incorporated herein in their entirety by reference, Yamada et al. fails to address polarized light beam splitter prisms or wire grid polarizer's positioned internally therein. Applicant respectfully submits that neither King et al. nor Perkins et al. nor Grinberg et al. nor Yamada et al. shows or teaches or suggests, either individually or in combination, a polarized light beam splitter which includes a wire grid and an air gap positioned between the wire grid and a surface of a section of the splitter, together with the other recited claim limitations. As such, independent claims 1, 10, 17, and 21 are now believed to be in allowable form.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and contain all the limitations of claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as is claim 1. Claims 11-16 depend from claim 10 and contain all the limitations of claim 10 and are allowable for the same reasons as is claim 10. Claims 18-20 depend from claim 17 and contain all the limitations of claim 17 and are allowable for the same reasons as is claim 17.

This response is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) requesting a two-month extension, together with a deposit account authorization for the fee therefore.

In view of the foregoing, applicant requests reconsideration of the application, as amended, and submits that the application is now in allowable form and should be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



David C. Ripma
Registration No. 27,672

Date: December 29, 2003

David C. Ripma, Patent Counsel
Sharp Laboratories of America, Inc.
5750 N.W. Pacific Rim Blvd.
Camas, WA 98607

Telephone: (360) 834-8754
Facsimile: (360) 817-8505